

A RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL FOR A CONFIGURABLE NETWORK ROUTER

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10 A method of managing a communications system is disclosed. The method
begins with the creation of a resource control block corresponding to a resource of the
communications system. The communications system includes, for example, a
processor and a resource coupled to the processor. The resource control block
maintains information regarding the resource. The method also provides for the
maintenance of the resource control block. The processor is configured to maintain
the resource control block, and the resource control block is maintained by the
processor in response to communications (e.g., a keep-alive message) between the
15 processor and the resource. This embodiment can also include the creation of a
processor resource control block corresponding to the processor that is created by the
controller in response to a power-up message from the resource. The resource can be,
for example, a hardware component of the communications system.